

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.**

1. (Currently amended): A treated pigment produced by treating at least one pigment with a carbodiimide compound having one or more carbodiimide groups, wherein

said at least one pigment is selected from the group consisting of organic pigments and carbon black each having a functional group reactive with a carbodiimide group, ~~with a carbodiimide compound having one or more carbodiimide groups,~~

said carbodiimide compound ~~having, within the molecule thereof,~~ comprising at least one side chain selected from the group consisting of polyester side chains, polyether side chains and polyacrylic side chains, ~~with and~~

said carbodiimide compound has a carbodiimide equivalent of 100 to 50,000.

2. (Original): The treated pigment according to Claim 1,

wherein the carbodiimide compound is one resulting from intramolecular introduction of at least one side chain selected from the group consisting of polyester side chains, polyether side chains and polyacrylic side chains each having a functional group reactive with a carbodiimide group by reaction of the side chain with the carbodiimide group.

3. (Currently amended): The treated pigment according to Claim 1,

wherein the carbodiimide compound is ~~one resulting from reaction between~~ prepared by reacting

a compound containing a carbodiimide group with

a compound having a functional group reactive with a carbodiimide group ~~and the carbodiimide group~~,

followed by intramolecular introduction of a compound forming at least one species selected from the group consisting of polyester side chains, polyether side chains and polyacrylic side chains.

4. (Original): The treated pigment according to Claim 2 or 3,

wherein the carbodiimide compound is one resulting from intramolecular introduction of the side chain having a carboxyl group, sulfonic acid group, phosphoric acid group, hydroxyl group or amino group as the functional group reactive with a carbodiimide group.

5. (Previously presented): The treated pigment according to any one of Claims 1 to 3, wherein the side chain is a chain having a formula weight of 200 to 10,000.

6. (Previously presented): The treated pigment according to any one of Claims 1 to 3,

wherein the organic pigment or carbon black having a functional group reactive with a carbodiimide group has at least one functional group selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group, sulfonic acid group, hydroxyl group and amino group.

7. (Previously presented): A pigment dispersion composition

which comprises the treated pigment according to any one of Claims 1 to 3.

8. (Previously presented): A pigment dispersion-based resist composition

which comprises the treated pigment according to any one of Claims 1 to 3.

Amendment

Application No. 10/507,012

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9 (Currently amended): A compound for treating an organic pigment or carbon black having a functional group reactive with a carbodiimide group

which is a carbodiimide compound ~~having, within the molecule thereof,~~ comprising at least one side chain selected from the group consisting of polyester side chains, polyether side chains and polyacrylic side chains and has a carbodiimide equivalent of 100 to 50,000.